CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A fencing tool, comprising:

a body having an axis, a body proximal end, and a body distal end located opposite the body proximal end;

an intermediate portion extending from the body distal end at an intermediate angle with respect to the axis, the intermediate portion having an intermediate proximal end that forms a first intersection with the body distal end, and an intermediate distal end located opposite the intermediate proximal end;

a terminal portion extending from the intermediate distal end at a terminal angle, such that the terminal portion is oriented in a different configuration than the intermediate portion with respect to the body, the terminal portion having a terminal proximal end that forms a second intersection with the intermediate distal end and a terminal distal end that is opposite the terminal proximal end; and

a finger extending from the second intersection at a finger angle that is out of plane with respect to the intermediate and terminal portions.

2. The fencing tool of claim 1, wherein the body, the intermediate portion, and the terminal portion are co-planar and define a continuous flat blade, and the finger is out of plane with respect to the continuous flat blade.

3. The fencing tool of claim 1, further comprising a concave recess formed in an outer edge of the terminal portion adjacent to the second intersection.

4. The fencing tool of claim 1, wherein the intermediate angle is approximately 60°, the terminal angle is approximately 90°, and the finger angle is approximately 30°.

5. The fencing tool of claim 1, wherein the body has a first width, the intermediate portion has a second width that is greater than the first width, and the terminal portion has a third width that is less than the first width.

6. The fencing tool of claim 1, wherein the body has a first length, the intermediate portion has a second length that is less than the first length, and the terminal portion has a third length that is greater than the second length.

7. The fencing tool of claim 1, wherein the terminal distal end is radiused, and a pocket is formed between the terminal portion and the finger that is adapted to seat a fence wire.

8. The fencing tool of claim 1, further comprising a notch formed on an inner edge of the body adjacent to the first intersection, the notch having a lip that is generally rectangular and axially offset from the first intersection, wherein the lip forms a pocket that is adapted to seat a fence wire.

9. A fencing tool for securing a fence wire to a fence post with a mounting clip, the mounting clip having a central portion that terminates in a pair of loops on opposite sides of the central portion, the fencing tool comprising:

a handle having an axis;

a body extending in a generally axial direction from the handle, the body having a body proximal end located adjacent to the handle and a body distal end located opposite the body proximal end;

an intermediate portion extending from the body distal end at an intermediate angle with respect to the axis, the intermediate portion having an intermediate proximal end that forms a first intersection with the body distal end, and an intermediate distal end located opposite the intermediate proximal end;

a terminal portion extending from the intermediate distal end at a terminal angle, such that the terminal portion is oriented in a different configuration than the intermediate portion with respect to the body, the terminal portion having a terminal proximal end that forms a second intersection with the intermediate distal end and a terminal distal end that is opposite the terminal proximal end;

a finger extending from the second intersection at a finger angle;

a first pocket is formed between the terminal portion and the finger for seating the fence wire; and

a notch formed on an inner edge of the body adjacent to the first intersection, the notch having a lip that is axially offset from the first intersection, the lip forming a second pocket for seating the fence wire.

10. The fencing tool of claim 9, wherein the body, the intermediate portion, and the terminal portion are co-planar and define a continuous flat blade, and the finger is out of plane with respect to the continuous flat blade.

11. The fencing tool of claim 9, further comprising a concave recess formed in an outer edge of the terminal portion adjacent to the second intersection, the concave recess having a radius of curvature that is adapted to receive a portion of a mounting clip.

12. The fencing tool of claim 9, wherein the intermediate angle is approximately 60°, the terminal angle is approximately 90°, and the finger angle is approximately 30°.

13. The fencing tool of claim 9, wherein the body has a first width, the intermediate portion has a second width that is greater than the first width, and the terminal portion has a third width that is less than the first width; and wherein

the body has a first length, the intermediate portion has a second length that is less than the first length, and the terminal portion has a third length that is greater than the second length.

14. A method of securing a fence wire to a fence post with a mounting clip, the mounting clip having a central portion that receives the fence post and a pair of ends on opposite sides of the central portion and fence post, the method comprising:

(a) positioning a tool on one side of the fence post;

(b) seating the fence wire in a first pocket in the tool and one of the ends in a recess in the tool;

(c) rotating the tool about the fence wire in the first pocket to bend said one of the ends around the fence wire;

(d) disengaging the tool from the fence wire and said one of the ends and repositioning the tool on the other side of the fence post;

(e) seating the fence wire in a second pocket in the tool and contacting the other end with a finger extending from the tool; and

(f) rotating the tool about the fence wire in the second pocket to bend said other end around the fence wire.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein step (e) comprises configuring the finger out of plane with respect to a main body of the tool.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein step (b) comprises seating the fence wire in a concave recess formed on an outer edge of the tool.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein step (e) comprises seating the fence wire in a notch formed on an inner edge of the tool.